

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 4 are requested to be cancelled. Claims 11-14 are currently being added. Claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 are currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes, and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

In the Office Action, claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Haines et al. (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0072027). Claim 1, as amended, recites a data transfer method comprising, the center machine preparing an e-mail in a predetermined XML format for read-out of data stored in the target machine and sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the target machine via the communication line, and the target machine storing the e-mail of the predetermined XML format received via the communication line, analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the target machine, reading out the data of a designated area in a non-volatile memory stored in the target machine on the basis of the analysis result, preparing an e-mail of a predetermined XML format, which contains the read-out data, and sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the center machine via the communication line. The method further comprises the center machine storing the e-mail of the predetermined XML format received from the target machine via the communication line and obtaining data by analyzing the stored e-mail of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the center machine.

Haines discloses a system in which a manager uses a web browser on a computer 12 to open up a vendor website operating, and downloads a device discovery plug to identify peripheral devices and their addresses in a network 10 (page 3, ¶¶ [0033-0042]). The

discovered information is stored for reference in a memory associated with the vendor web site (page 3, ¶ [0041]).

Haines also discloses that a maintainer launches a web browser to interact with a vendor web site, such as by using a URL contained in an email message sent by the vendor web site, and browses the vendor web site to configure a portion of the vendor web site, such as maintenance notification thresholds (page 4, ¶ [0047-0051]). The vendor web site sends back an electronic message including configuration data to be used by the embedded web server 26 in the peripheral device (e.g., hard copy output engine 14), such as with an e-mail including a hotlink having an attached CGI script or an XML list (page 4, ¶ [0052]). The maintainer uses the electronic message received from the vendor web site to set the thresholds in the peripheral device via the embedded web server 26 (page 4, ¶ [0053]).

In contrast to claim 1, Haines fails to disclose or suggest the target machine analyzing the stored e-mail (received from the center machine) of the predetermined XML format using analysis software stored in advance in the target machine and reading out the data of a designated area in a non-volatile memory stored in the target machine on the basis of the analysis result. In particular, there is nothing in Haines that discloses or suggests using analysis software stored in the embedded web server 26 to analyze an email of a predetermined XML format and reading out data from a designated area based on that analysis. Rather, Haines merely discloses that a device discovery plug, not an e-mail, is downloaded to identify peripheral devices and their addresses in the network, and that a maintainer can set thresholds via an embedded web server 26, not through e-mail.

In the rejection, reference is made to ¶ [0024 & 0028], but these sections merely disclose that a computer 12 can communicate with a hard copy output engine 14 on a bus 16 using PML, and that a data path 18, which provides the system 10 with access to an external interconnection 17, has an e-mail capability. This disclosure in no way suggests preparing e-mails in an predetermined XML format, analyzing that e-mail using analysis software, and reading out data from a designated area based on a result of the analysis.

Haines also fails to disclose or suggest the target device preparing an e-mail of a predetermined XML format, which contains the read-out data, and sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined XML format to the center machine via the communication line. Rather, as described above, the vendor web site in Haines sends an e-mail to the maintainer, but neither the maintainer nor the embedded web server 15 sends an e-mail to any other entity. In other words, the only e-mails prepared and sent in Haines are from the vendor web site to the maintainer, not from a center machine to a target machine and from the target machine to the center machine. Accordingly, for all of these reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from Haines.

Claims 2, 3, and 5 are patentably distinguishable from Haines by virtue of their dependence from claim 1, as well as their additional recitations. Claims 6-10 are patentably distinguishable from Haines for reasons analogous to claim 1.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 3/14/06

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